

- (b) if so, the steps taken in that regard;
- (c) what kind of legal aid is proposed to be extended to the quake and cyclone victims of the above two States; and
- (d) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) and (b) As regards the setting up of special cell for the quake victims of Gujarat, the Chief Justice of India and Patron-in Chief, National legal Services Authority has requested the Chief Justice, High Court of Gujarat, who is also the Patron-in-Chief, Gujarat State Legal Services Authority to formulate some scheme and constitute special Legal Assistance Cells in the quake affected areas for helping the distressed people.

As regards the cyclone victims of Orissa, no directions have been issued to set up any cell.

(c) and (d) The victims of cyclone in Orissa and the earthquake in Gujarat are eligible to receive legal services from the State/District Legal Services Authority and Taluk Legal Services Committees in their respective States. The legal aid being provided by these authorities and committees includes the rendering of any service in the conduct of any case or other legal proceeding before any court or other authority or tribunal and the giving of advice on any legal matter.

Representation to weaker sections in Judiciary

† 1061. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the representation of weaker sections of the society especially that of women, tribal groups, scheduled castes and backward castes is insignificant in judiciary;
- (b) if so, the details of the representation of such section in Central and State Judiciary State-wise and Centre-wise; and
- (c) whether Government would consider to give representation to these sections in judiciary and judicial services?

† Original notice of the Question WM received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) to (c) Appointment of judges of the Supreme Court of India and the High Courts is made under articles 124 and 217 of the Constitution of India respectively which do not provide for reservation for any caste or class of persons. No information is maintained for caste or class etc.

The Government have, however, addressed letters to the Chief Ministers of the States and the Chief Justices of the High Courts, from time to time, requesting them to locate persons from the Bar belonging to Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, other Backward Classes, Minorities and Women who are suitable for appointment as High Court Judges.

Appointment of District Judges and other judges of the subordinate courts is made by the Governor of the State in consultation with the respective High Court exercising jurisdiction in relation to such States under the provisions of articles 233-234 of the Constitution of India.

Appeal cases before Foreign Exchange Regulation Appellate Tribunal

1062. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there are huge arrears of appeal cases before Foreign Exchange Regulation Appellate Tribunal (formerly Board);
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Government proposes to dispose of cases involving penalty up to Rs. 1 lakh by general waiver to reduce the backlog; and
- (d) the other measures proposed to reduce the backlog?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) and (b) On the abolition of the Foreign Exchange Appellate Board on 16.2000, 5401 pending cases were transferred to the